

San Marcos Public Library Policy on Library Programs and Displays

The following policy has been adopted by the San Marcos Public Library Board as authorized by Section 2.298 of the City of San Marcos Code of Ordinances. This policy is to be considered the official position of the library.

Purpose

The overall goal of the San Marcos Public Library is to serve the community as a center for cultural enrichment, lifelong learning, and information exchange. The primary method of attaining this goal is through the development of a strong, diverse collection of library materials. As a secondary means of attaining this goal, the library also sponsors programs and exhibits of cultural, educational, and informational interest to the community.

Statement of Intellectual Freedom

The San Marcos Public Library subscribes to the philosophy expressed in the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read statement of the American Library Association. The library considers the philosophy expressed in these statements to be applicable not only to library materials but also to library-sponsored programs and exhibits and hereby incorporates them as part of the policy on programs and exhibits.

Library sponsorship of programs and exhibits does not imply endorsement by the library board or library staff of the ideas expressed in them.

Objections to the content of library programs or exhibits should be presented in writing to the Library Director. The Library Director shall inform complainants of their right to appear before the Board in order to present their concerns. The Library Board and staff welcome the opportunity to discuss with interested citizens the policies set forth in this statement.

Responsibility for Programs and Exhibits

Responsibility for development of library-sponsored programs and exhibits rests with the Library Director and library staff, operating within the framework of established library policy.

General guidelines for Programs and Exhibits

- Programs and exhibits will be developed with regard to the overall library objective to educate, inform and entertain.
- Variations in age level, educational level, needs and interests of individuals in the community will be considered in the overall development of library programs and exhibits.
- Because personnel and financial resources of the library are limited, the library will cooperated to the fullest extent possible with other individuals, organizations, and educational institutions in the community to develop programs and exhibits.
- While programs and exhibits about religion and politics may be sponsored by the library, the library will not sponsor religious services or partisan political programs and exhibits organized in support of specific candidates.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

A person's right to attend library-sponsored programs will not be denied or abridged because of origin, sex, age, or background. The library may, however, indicate the interest level of programs designed for children. The staff also reserves the right to require participants who are disrupting program activities to leave.

Adopted: October 16, 1984